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Appendix III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 579, asked by Sri T. S. Ramaswami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 4th March 1961, page 208 supra.]

(*a*) The cost of cultivating rubber per acre in the Government Plantations—

An amount of Rs. 700 (Rupees seven hundred only) per acre has been adopted for the first year (formation) of the rubber plantation.

(*b*) The area planted till now—

An area of about 149 acres has been planted up with rubber during 1960.

(*c*) The details of the scheme for future plantation—

About 2,000 acres will be planted with rubber during the Third Five-Year Plan period at the rate of 400 acres per year. An area of 852 acres will be planted during the years 1966-67 and 1967–68 at the rate of 400 acres and 452 acres respectively.

(*d*) How the budding is done at present and under whose guidance?

The following is the method of budding adopted :—

Budded stumps.—A budded stump is a seedling, to which a bud has been successfully grafted and which is subsequently pulled out and stumped in the proper manner for transplanting. Seedlings, which have attained the normal size for transplanting in the field as stumps (i.e., a girth of 2½ inches or more at collar) are also suitable for budding. Budding should be planned in such a way that it is done about four weeks before the plant is due to be pulled out and stumped for planting.

Like seedlings, budded plants also can be pruned down in the nursery about seven days before they are due to be pulled out and transplanted in the field. This should, however, be done only after about seven days had elapsed, after the bandage over the grafted bud is removed. The pruning treatment has the same effect, as in the case of seedling and stimulates the development of the dormant grafted bud. In many cases, the bud may swell up and indicate early signs of growth. The delay in transplanting should be sufficient to promote the rapid development of bud, but should not be so long as to result in growth before transplanting. The pruning in this case should be done 3 to 6 inches above the bud-patch. This is better done with a hand-saw, the pruned surface slanting away on the opposite side of the bud patch at about 45 degrees. For pulling out, the budded stump should be held only on the portion above the bud patch. Otherwise the grafting bud may be damaged This may be found more difficult than pulling out the whole plant. Digging up the soil on one side of the plant may be necessary in difficult cases. Where the nursery had been

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properly prepared and the soil had not hardened, this operation may not be difficult, with the exception of large sized plants. This method of pruning *in situ*, just as in the case of seedlings, should be adopted only, if planting out in the field could be carried out as soon as regular south-west monsoon sets in and favourable weather conditions are expected during the following two months.

When circumstances are not favourable for adopting the above method, the budded plants may be pulled out from the nursery like the unbudded seedlings and the stem stumped at a distance of 3 to 6 inches from the top of the bud patch in a slanting direction as described above, with a very sharp knife or a hand-saw. The roots are pruned and trimmed as in the case of seedling stumps Planting in the field is also done in the same manner as the seedling stumps, care being taken to see that the bottom of the bud patch is in level with the soil surface. There is a practice of planting budded stumps with the bud-patch facing north. This is to protect the grafted bud against direct rays of the hot sun falling on it. This practice might be useful particularly, if spells of sunny weather are expected in the locality, after planting.

For transporting to planting places budded stumps may be packed in the same manner as the seedling stumps. If the means of transport are such that damage to the grafted bud is likely, it would be advisible to protect the bud-patch by tying a piece of banana sheath large enough to cover.

Stumped buddings.—Young buddings can be stumped and transplanted in the field as stumped buddings. Budded plants remaining in the nursery after the required number is used for transplanting in the field, may be cut back and the bud allowed to grow in the nursery for subsequent transplanting as stumped buddings in order to supply vacancies in the field. The budding in this case will be ready for pulling out and stumping, when it has developed brown bark to a height of about 6 feet. After pulling out, the stem is stumped at a distance of 5 to 6 feet from the union, and a few inches above the level of a leaf whorl, so that shooting may take place near the top of the stump. The cut surface may be waxed or painted with corboletum. The tap root should be pruned at about 3 feet below the collar and the lateral roots trimmed as in the case of seedling and budded stumps. When planting, particular care should be taken to press the soil firmly. In planting stumped buddings, better success is often obtained by doing the filling also at the same time. The stump is held upright in the centre of the pit and soil put in. It is then easy to press the soil down and around the stump with the feet every time 3 or 4 spades of earth are put in. It is also important that planting of stumped budding should be done as soon as the regular south-west monsoon sets in so that it will get the benefit of the whole monsoon season. Success depends mainly on favourable weather conditions.

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Transport of stumped buddings to planting places is usually difficult and expensive owing to their large size. If each plant is not packed carefully, its bark may be damaged. Owing to uncertainty of favourable weather conditions for a sufficiently long period following planting and transport difficulties, planting stumped buddings is not adopted as a routine plantation practice, except for supplying failures in the field. The growth of these plants, when successfully established, may not be so backward, as supplies of budded stumps.

Budding is done under the guidance of the General Manager and the Superintendent.

(*e*) The nature of the technical assistance received by the Government.

Technical assistance is being obtained from the Rubber Board, Kottayam, Kerala, as and when necessary.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS